

FORMULA AREA DEFINITION FOR THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Currently, in 24 C.F.R. § 1000.302 there is a list of eight areas that HUD has been using as a "rule of thumb" basis for defining formula areas for tribes nationwide and three variables that are used when necessary. The Oklahoma specific language in that definition defines the formula area as "[f]ormer Indian reservation areas in Oklahoma as defined by the Census as Tribal Jurisdictional Statistical Area". In 2000, the Census Bureau changed the designation in Oklahoma to "Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Area" or OTSAs. The basic definition from the Census Bureau for OTSAs is as follows:

Oklahoma tribal statistical areas (OTSAs) are statistical entities identified and delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau in consultation with federally recognized American Indian tribes in Oklahoma that do not currently have a reservation, but once had a reservation in that state. Boundaries of OTSAs will be those of the former reservations in Oklahoma, except where modified by agreements with neighboring tribes for data presentation purposes . . .

To ensure that all tribes are included within this definition, a suggestion is being made that would recognize the current established formula areas for those tribes that have invested funds and provided substantial housing services within these recognized areas since the inception of NAHASDA. The proposal is as follows:

Sec. 1000.302 What are the definitions applicable for the IHBG formula?

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Formula Area. (1) Formula areas are:

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(iv) Former Indian Reservation Areas in Oklahoma as defined by the Census as Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSAs) or any area recognized by HUD as a formula area within the State of Oklahoma as of July 1, 2003.